

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00582 261245Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 EB-08 INR-07 OES-06 NSC-05  
CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /054 W  
-----261441 061144 /47 S

O R 261138Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5677  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMCOMSUL DHAHRAN  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0582

DEPT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, TC, SA  
SUBJ: UTAYBA INTERVIEW IN ITTIHAD: CALL FOR OPEC SUMMIT

REF: ABU DHABI 574  
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1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH FEBRUARY 25 AL-ITTIHAD INTERVIEW  
REPORTS OIL MINISTER UTAYBA AS CALLING FOR OPEC SUMMIT TO  
RESTORE OIL PRICING UNITY, UNDERSECRETARY MINISTRY PETROLEUM  
STATES UTAYBA MISQUOTED. UAEG NOW SEEKING WAYS CORRECT  
RECORD AND INFORM SAUDIS UAEG OPPOSED ANY SPECIAL MEETING AMONG  
OPEC STATES UNTIL PRICING ISSUES HAVE BEEN RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY

IN ADVANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEB 25, SEMI-OFFICIAL AL-ITTIHAD PUBLISHED LENGTHY INTERVIEW BETWEEN UAE OIL MINISTER UTAYBA AND ABBAS TARABILI WITH HEADLINES THAT UAE WAS CALLING FOR AN OPEC SUMMIT TO RESTORE OPEC OIL PRICE UNITY. UTAYBA IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT OPEC IS PASSING THROUGH MOST CRITICAL PERIOD SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED, THAT OPEC SUMMITS HAVE BEEN HELD IN PAST FOR REASONS LESS PRESSING AND UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES LESS SERIOUS THAN PRESENT, THAT OPEC MEMBERS NEED TO FORGET EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED IN DOHA IF THEY ARE KEEN TO PRESERVE OPEC UNITY, AND THAT SUMMIT WILL BE ABLE TO DRAW A CLEAR AND UNITED OPEC POLICY THAT WILL SATISFY EVERYONE. UAE WILL ATTEND SUCH A CONFERENCE ANYTIME ANYWHERE.

3. IN INTERVIEW, UTAYBA STATES TIME HAD PROVEN THE VALIDITY OF UAE AND SAUDI ARABIAN VIEWS TO HOLD THE OIL PRICE INCREASE TO ONLY FIVE PERCENT. THE FRONT LINE STATES AND OTHER ARAB AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES HAVE "WELCOMED OUR MODERATE STAND".

4. IN THIS VEIN, UTAYBA QUOTED AS STATING THAT "THOUGH WE DO NOT BUILD OUR POSITIONS ON OTHERS' REACTIONS OR IN ANTICIPATION OF ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL REWARDS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, WE BELIEVE THAT THE AMERICAN POSITION NOW REFLECTS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING FOR THE ARAB CAUSE. THE AMERICAN REFUSAL TO SELL ISRAEL CONCUSSION BOMBS AND THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION'S STAND ON THE ARAB BOYCOTT, SUCH AS LEBANON, AND THE AID WASHINGTON IS GIVING TO FRONT LINE STATES, ESPECIALLY EGYPT, ARE BUT EXAMPLES OF THE NEW AMERICAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS OUR CAUSE".

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5. IN THE INTERVIEW, THE MINISTER ALSO REITERATES THAT THE UAE HAD NO INTENTION AT PRESENT TO TAKE OVER OR EVEN INCREASE ITS 60 PERCENT SHARE IN OIL COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE UAE. "IT IS NOT THE OWNERSHIP PERCENTAGE THAT MATTERS. WHAT COUNTS IS HOW MUCH WE GET FOR EACH BARREL OF CRUDE AND WE GET MORE THAN SOME OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE COMPLETELY TAKEN OVER THE COMPANIES". FOR PURELY TECHNICAL REASONS, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE UAE TO OPERATE OIL INDUSTRIES AND UAE WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE TO MAKE USE OF FOREIGN EXPERTISE FOR SOME TIME.

6. UNDERSECRETARY FOR DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM AFFAIRS ABDALLAH ISMAIL, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING UTAYBA INTERVIEW, HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT MINISTER WAS MISQUOTED ON CALL FOR SPECIAL MINISTERIAL. JOURNALIST, WHOM ISMAIL STATES IS AN EGYPTIAN CUB REPORTER NOW WORKING FOR MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, WAS LOOKING FOR A HEADLINE AMMYKENT WHAT MINISTER SAID. REPORTER RAISED QUESTION ABOUT SPECIAL OPEC SUMMIT AND UTAYBA REPLIED THAT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA IN THEORY BUT HE DID NOT CALL FOR SUCH A MEETING. ISMAIL

WAS CONCERNED THAT SAUDIS WOULD BE ASTONISHED BY HEADLINE  
SINCE IT MIGHT IMPLY THAT THERE HAD BEEN COORDINATION BE-  
TWEEN SAUDIS AND UAE FOR SPECIAL OPEC SUMMIT DURING  
YAMANI VISIT TO ABU DHABI OF FEB. 22. ISMAIL SAID SAUDI  
POSITION WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO SPECIAL OPEC MEETING OF  
ANY KIND UNLESS ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS INDICATED THAT SUCH A MEETING  
WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. THIS WAS ALSO UAE POSITION, AND MINISTRY  
PETROLEU PLANNING; INFORM SAUDIS AND SEEK CORRECT RECORD.  
DICKMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MR. STEINER, S/S-O.  
ABU DHABI 582 NOT PASSED BAGHDAD.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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